

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Merseburg Airfield

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

21 May 1954

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REFERENCES

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Merseburg Airfield between 21 April and 2 May 1954:

21 April. A total of 12 parachutists leaped over the field from a twin-engine aircraft which approached several times at an altitude of about 600 meters. The parachutists who landed on the landing field wore dark flying suits and used single white parachutes.

23 and 24 April. Throughout the day, individual local flights were made by MIG-15 or U-MIG-15s.

25 April. During the afternoon, 64 MIG-15 or U-MIG-15s were parked in 8 rows of 8 aircraft each on the landing field. A pilot was observed in front of each aircraft. Furthermore, 2 MIG-15s were parked on the usual dispersal area at the eastern end of the runway and 2 two-seater swept-back jet aircraft in front of a hangar.

26 to 28 April. No air activity was observed throughout the day. Beginning at 8 p.m., the noise of take-offs was heard and swept-back jet aircraft were seen departing. The landings of the aircraft were never observed.

29 April to 2 May. There was no air activity. On 1 May, aircraft were parked at the field, except for the alert flight at the eastern edge of the field. The open hangars and shrapnelproof aircraft revetments were vacant. Source did not determine that the personnel strength at the field/considerably been reduced.

2. radio and radar sets. On 1 May, however, some of the sets were again observed at their previous locations and some at new locations. Near the 4 low brick buildings at the northern edge of the field was a Token-type set; next to it was a mast, about 10 meters high, with a tall-shaped device, 40 cm in diameter, on top, in addition to 2 radio trucks each with a rod antenna. In the southeastern corner of the landing field, just southwest of the underpass of Leuchthammer Strasse was a Kuiferest-type set and next to it a mast, about 15 meters high, with horizontal discs,

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about 60 cm in diameter and 2 cm thick, fitted at intervals of 15 to 20 cm beginning at the top. Two groups of 3 radio trucks each were located nearby. Another knife-edge-type radar set and a small radar set with a circular antenna were observed just northeast of the underground of trucks and tanks. A radar with discs like the one mentioned above was observed inside of the quartering area near the main guardhouse of the quarters. There, source observed three red antennas which possibly belonged to radio trucks which could not be used. A third nest with discs, 2 radio trucks each with a red antenna, and a low wooden building were located in the quartering area northeast of the former storage building. A radio station of which 3 masts were identified was located near a shed south of the hangar at the eastern edge of the field. South of this installation were two radio masts, each about 20 meters high. The lower low frequency search beacon was still located in the extension of the runway near Leusden. All masts which were higher than about 10 meters were fitted with red obstacle lights.

3. On 29 April, neither runway lighting facilities nor the radio installations were observed. On the evening of 1 May, however, the runway lights were again available but in another arrangement than for only. Four search lights were at the eastern end of the runway, a each at the northern and southern edges. About 75 white lights and three searchlights of red lights, each fitted on a pedestal, 50 to 75 cm high and about 10 meters apart, were located along the northern and southern sides of the runway as indicated.
4. On 29 April, a gas-defence practice was held at the eastern edge of the landing field. The soldiers involved were gas masks and practiced with equipped equipment.
5. Comment. As previously reported, the present report indicates that Leusden airfield is occupied by 70 MIG-15s. According to source's description, it appears that the 64 MIG-15s which were arranged on the landing field on 29 April left the field during the nights between 26 and 28 April 1964. This information, however, has not been confirmed by other sources.
6. Comment. Except for the 2 radio masts with horizontal discs of undetermined purpose, the other radio and radar installations have previously been reported.

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